

Pay equity settlement leaves college \$345,000 short

By John Summers

A \$345,000 wrench has been thrown into the cogs of the college's 1993/94 budget through a recent pay equity settlement to members of Conestoga's support staff.

"It's a straight loss to the college from its cumulative reserves," said Kevin Mullan, Conestoga's vice-president of finance, "and it puts that much more pressure on the '93/94 budget."

A group of 37 early childhood education "A" workers received the biggest chunk of the \$1,085,000 settlement: \$17,702 each in retro-

active payments and an annual salary increase of \$5,096 per worker.

Other equity payments made ranged from \$8,851 down to \$3,161.50, while wage increases varied from \$2,548 to \$910 per year.

Mullan said the size of the equity settlement caught the college by surprise.

As of March 31, 1992, Conestoga had accrued \$361,000 towards settlement payments. Coupled with \$379,000 in funding from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Conestoga's equity reserve fund was expected to cover the settlement.

"People are walking around shaking their heads."

—Tibbits

But, after an agreement was reached by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union's pay equity commission, and an educational comparison was made between members of the support staff and similar occupations outside the college, Conestoga was forced to pay an extra \$345,000 in equity settlements.

At a June 28 board of governors

meeting, Conestoga president John Tibbits said the college now has some of the highest paid day care workers in the city.

"How many of our seven day-care centres can we keep open?" Tibbits asked board members.

Because of those payments, there is a definite job loss fear among ECE workers, said Tibbits. "People are walking around shaking their heads."

During a report to the board, Mullan warned the governors that charges for day care services at Conestoga may have to increase, which will likely cause a reduction in the number of children in atten-

dance.

This could mean layoffs of ECE staff and a decline in the number of students accepted into the program, he said.

The payments were made shortly before a wide-ranging law passed through the Ontario legislature which abandoned a 1987 promise to women that full pay equity would be reached by 1995.

The new law sets no payment deadline for women working in the lowest paid jobs in the province, such as day care.

However, Mullan said the payments to Conestoga's staff were made two weeks ago.



DSA president Ron Lehman (left) gives John Tibbits a cheque.

(Photo by Kenton Augerman)

DSA donates to fund-raising campaign

By Kenton Augerman

The DSA contributed \$32,770 to Conestoga College's Investing in Skills for Tomorrow fund-raising campaign by presenting college president John Tibbits with a cheque at the association's executive meeting on June 29.

The donation should enable students to receive a high-quality education in an environment that makes learning pleasant, DSA president Ron Lehman said in an interview.

"The main concern of the DSA and the administration should be the students. Good quality education and a pleasant educational experience while they're here should be the main goal. We're accomplishing that by donating to Investing in Skills for Tomorrow."

The donation may ultimately help the DSA in its quest for a student centre, said Lehman.

"If we're on good terms with the administration, then it's much easier for us to go to them and say, 'Okay, we supported you. We helped you out. Now we'd appreciate it if you would listen to our side for a little while and help us out if you can.'"

According to DSA financial coordinator Irene da Rosa, the \$32,770 came out of the association's capital development fund for the 1992-93 school year.

When paying tuition, full-time students make an additional payment of \$20 to the DSA, half of which is set aside for Investing in Skills for Tomorrow, da Rosa said in an interview.

The other \$10 is retained by the DSA for use in projects such as renovating the student lounge, installing a new sound system and microwave oven in the main cafeteria and purchasing a fax machine for the association, she said.

The DSA will make four more payments to the fund-raising campaign within the next five years, she added.

The goal of the college campaign is to raise \$4.5 million for the construction of a school of business at the Doon campus.

The actual amount needed is \$11 million, but the provincial government will provide the rest of the money.

All of the business programs currently offered at various campuses will be consolidated and taught at the new facility.

The campaign is "going reasonably well," Tibbits said in an interview. "We're at \$3.3 or \$3.4 million, so we're not that far away."

The goal will likely be reached in November or December of 1993, possibly with the assistance of private donations, said Tibbits.

"All we would need is one really good gift. We're quite prepared to have the new building named after somebody if they donate x number of dollars."

However, contributions from businesses are still being sought, said the president.

"We have lots of outstanding calls right now. What I mean by that is we have about \$1.8 million of requests we put into companies, and now we're waiting for them to give us answers."

Since most companies are wary about the economy at present, there's no way of telling how much money the outstanding calls will bring in, he said.

"I'll probably make another 30 or 40 calls to companies this summer."

Construction of the facility is expected to begin in the spring of 1994.

Toyota donation Cambridge plant turns over \$50,000 cheque

By Colleen Allen

The Investing in Skills for Tomorrow campaign came \$50,000 closer to achieving the \$4.5 million needed to construct a School of Business at Conestoga College's Doon campus with a donation from Toyota.

Takeo Kawamura, president of Toyota Manufacturing Canada of Cambridge, presented Conestoga College president John Tibbits with a \$50,000 cheque on June 30, the second instalment of \$100,000 promised to the college.

Initially, the payment schedule was to be over a three-year period. However, explained Bill Eastdale, Toyota senior vice-president, "we didn't really know the amount of money available, so we said three years in case it took three years."

Eastdale said Conestoga was presented with the money because the relationship between Conestoga and Toyota "has been so valuable to us. We've established a lot of our initial training programs with the college."

"They've been very good to Toyota, so we were glad to give the money. It's going to a good cause."

Continuing education programs at Conestoga offer training to about 120 to 130 Toyota workers per year, said Eastdale.

Although employees do take courses at other institutions, Eastdale estimates 75 per cent of the adult programs are co-ordinated through Conestoga.

Conestoga has devised special curriculums for Toyota employees, said Eastdale. "They've offered classes with special hours so people on shift work could take advantage

of the opportunities to go to Conestoga."

Tibbits, who also recognized the importance of Conestoga's long-standing relationship with Toyota, said that in addition to the \$100,000 given to the college, Toyota has donated four cars over the past seven or eight months.

The vehicles are used by students in the motor vehicle mechanic program at the Guelph campus, said Tibbits. "It's obviously important for them to know what the latest cars look like."

At present, the college has raised \$3.4 million for the construction of the 40,000-square-foot business school.

"As soon as we get a little closer to our goal (\$4.5 million) we could start building," said Tibbits. "At the latest, we'd like to start next spring."

Class setting up memorial award

By Tim Pozza

A memorial award is being set up by classmates of a Conestoga College student killed when his motorcycle slipped on wet pavement and slid into the path of an on-coming car on Friday, June 25.

Daniel Crone, two months away from graduating from the robotics and automation program, was northbound on Guelph Road near Elora at the time of the accident, said an official with the Guelph detachment of the OPP.

The accident occurred one day before Crone's 23rd birthday.

Friends and relatives attended the funeral June 29 in Fergus, Crone's home town.

"One of the guys in the class said it right," said Shawn Smith, a fellow student. "We're almost as close as brothers. When you spend three years together you get close."

Mick Andic, an instructor of robotics and automation who taught Crone half of his classes last year, said the "big thing to put out was that he was a hard worker ... he was carrying a full-time job last year. He was always conscientious of detail."

"He was a nice guy — easy to get along with," said Dennis Gillies, one of the technology program's co-ordinators.

Gillies added that Crone was a member of a team which won the 1991 Electronics Engineering Technology Design Competition.

"He never let a group down on group projects," said Smith.

Donations for the memorial award being established in Crone's honor can be made in the technology office to Nancy Roszell, room 2A59. Fellow students, said Smith, are looking into having the college grant Crone a posthumous diploma.

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Only the strong will survive

He wanted to cry out, "Stop moving, stop shaking, stop screaming so loud." But he had no strength left. He felt like a scarecrow which had lost its ability to scare — the birds pecking, pulling and stripping away layers of his skin.



By John Summers

The father of two was diagnosed with viral meningitis and a neurosurgeon told his family there was a good chance he could contract tuberculosis.

Because of a shortage of beds, the hospital was forced to tend to him in the middle of a hectic hallway, beside a pay phone.

They erected a yellowish brown curtain around him for privacy, but there was no relief from the chatter and footsteps of nurses and doctors scurrying around like bees in a hive.

His three-year-old son wanted to stretch out his hands and touch the grey-skinned skeleton he once called "Dad." But something, either fear or abhorrence, kept his tiny hands deep in his pockets.

He remembered straddling his father's back, playing horse and pretending they were a bucking bronco and its rider. Now, it was as if those same arms and legs had been amputated, leaving behind only the ebb and flow of stuttered breathing.

The patient kept his eyes closed, trying to hide from the light which seemed to cut through his skin.

A long-awaited spinal tap was taken, three hours after he was admitted. The test showed the meningitis wasn't fatal. A few days in hospital for observation and then he would be on his way home.

The doctors were standing beside the patient and talking to the relieved family about what a fine nursing staff this fine institution had.

However, the family saw it differently. For hours, the nurses and doctors treated them like ghosts, nothing more than pestering apparitions.

Where were they when his breathing got softer and softer? When his lips started to turn blue? Where?

But, as at hospitals all across the country, slashes to their budgets had forced them to close beds.

The number of beds in Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital is down to 400 from 600. It has laid off 200 full-time staff over the last three years.

The NDP, with its social contract, hopes to cut \$1.6 billion from health care costs. The province wants to cut doctors' billings by \$275 million.

They want to force aging doctors to retire, and they want to limit the number of new doctors opening practices.

All of this will bring the deficit down. Not hurtling down like a meteor, leaving behind only a thin trail of what once was, but dribbling down slowly like a raindrop on a pane of glass.

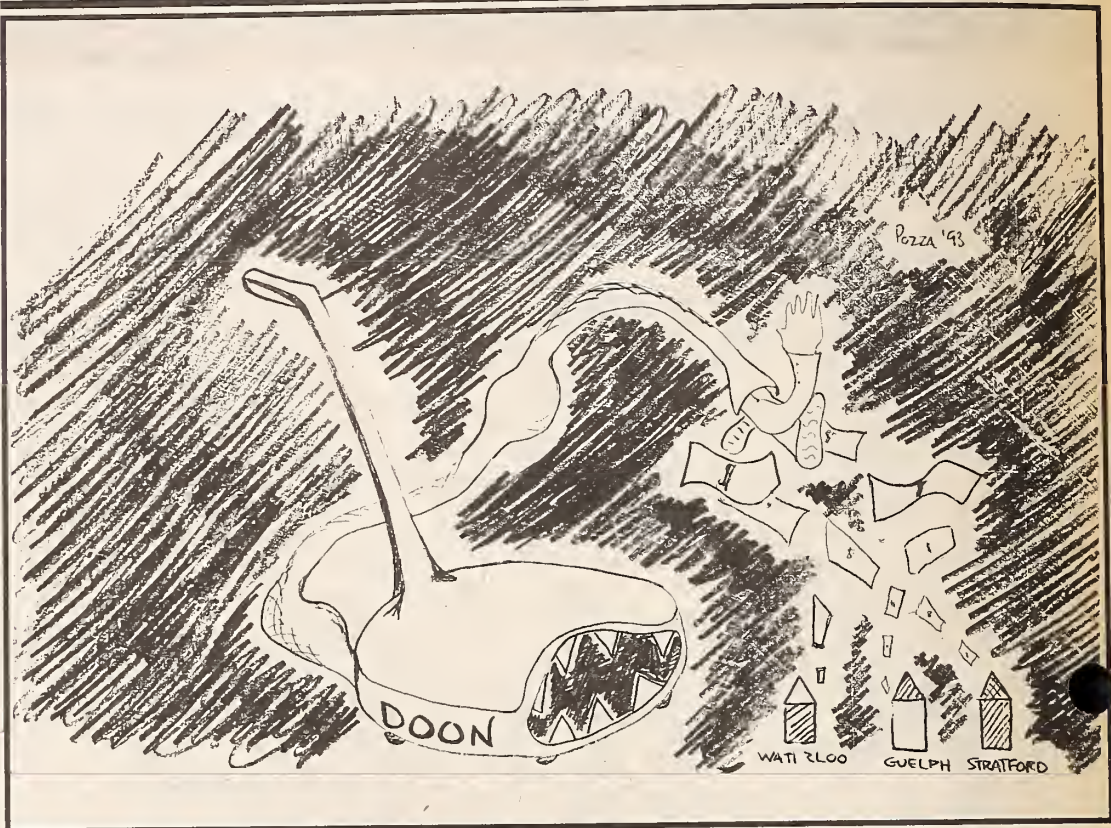
Meanwhile, only the strong will survive.

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef, or an opinion, please send it in. Spoke reserves the right to edit letters to fit space, and to remove any libellous statements. Your letter must be signed, and include your program and year for verification. Send letters to the Spoke office, Room 4B15, Doon campus.

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OPINION



Doctors sick over walk-in clinics

When competition for a family doctor's paycheck comes from other health care providers such as walk-in clinics, family doctors are usually quick to point out the consequences for Ontario's health care system. Other considerations — their salaries — are incidental, they would have us believe.

According to some general practitioners, walk-in clinics, which offer convenient hours and do not require appointments, are responsible for the skyrocketing cost of Ontario's health care.

Because some of the people who use these clinics already have a family doctor, there is a potential for "double-doctoring." Patients who see a clinic doctor for minor ailments such as sore throats or infections are often prescribed medication and told to see their family doctor in a few days.

The family doctor then sees the patient for the same problem and also bills OHIP.



By Kathleen Sibley

But for family doctors paid for the number of patients on their roster, every trip their patients make to another health care provider means a smaller slice of the OHIP pie.

For the patient, however, clinics can offer flexible hours when an appointment with a family doctor is unavailable.

Doctors who prescribe pills for every illness, and who encourage unnecessary follow-up visits, have to recognize their role in shaping the attitudes of several generations of Canadians who feel compelled to see their doctors for the tiniest irritations.

But walk-in clinics are not the sole cause of rising health care

costs. The failure to screen potential patients — whether at a clinic or a doctor's office — to determine the importance of medical attention has contributed to the mentality of the Ontario health care consumer, who tends to see an OHIP card as a credit card with no limits.

If patients received detailed copies of the bills their physicians submitted to OHIP, they might reconsider the wisdom of making such generous contributions to their physician's bank account via their income tax.

Fraternity, as even doctors have found, has a bottom line. As the Canadian system of health care takes on the terminology of the marketplace, where the patient comes a consumer and the doctor a provider of a service, doctors will be increasingly pitted against each other.

Both types are valuable. It's up to OHIP to ensure the patient does not become a commodity.

Excuses won't get you the job

After withdrawing some money from the bank machine, you look at the balance and gasp. You were so sure you had more money left than that. Then you remember you wrote a \$95 cheque for all the long distance calls you made last month.

OSAP seems like a lot at the beginning, but after you've paid for your tuition and books, your rent, bills and groceries, what is left? You smile and start to get excited when you see the light. CALL MOM OR DAD!

"Hi mom. I miss you. How are you doing?" you ask sweetly.

"Oh, you'll never believe what happened," she says, forgetting to say she misses you. "I was laid off yesterday. Your father and I just don't know what we're going to do now. We have to pay for that car we just bought. It's just going to be so hard finding another job and . . ."

"Mom," you interrupt. "I'm really sorry about that, but I really have to go. I have a lot of homework to do. I'll probably be able to come home



By Rita Diab

in a couple of weeks. See you soon."

Well, you think, what am I going to do now? Social Services! You quickly dial the number. You answer the questions that the lady with the nasal voice asks over the phone. She then puts you on hold for ages. When she comes back on, she says you do not qualify.

Oh, you say, trying to think of something to add so she takes pity on you. But you can't think of anything. And as you're about to hang up, she asks if you have any dependents. Automatically you say no, then you regret you said that. Sorry, she says, as she hangs up.

You can't sleep well at night because you spend most of it worried

about money. You do not know when you will have a proper dinner, or how you are going to pay for next month's hydro bill, let alone the rent.

Okay, you ask yourself, how bad can getting a part-time job be? "I just can't get a job," you say, trying to think of excuses for you not to work. "I have too much homework and it's really hard to find work these days and . . . and . . ."

The next day you fill out applications at the mall, but in the back of your mind you hope no one phones you back. A few days later, the manager from the drug store calls, asking you to come in for an interview. You reluctantly agree.

A week goes by and no phone calls. Yes! Well, at least I tried. The phone rings. It's the manager saying you got the job and you start on Monday. "Oh. Thank you," you say.

Well, at least now you don't have to quit school and get a full-time job.

You Tell Us

What changes would you like to see occur at the Doon campus?



Staff and students should have a more mature attitude about issues like racism and recognize the different minorities.
Jamie Slater
activities passport co-ordinator



There should be more computers available. Teachers should be more flexible and let students use them when there's a class going on.
Benny Nimmervoll,
numerical control technician program



With students coming from the Waterloo and Guelph campuses, more computers and space should be available to students.
Becky Bortien,
DSA activities co-ordinator



I'd like to see the rest of the grounds develop so the whole college will look equally attractive. It'll look nice when it's done.
Jim Brady
security officer



I think the library should be open more in the summer so students can study. It's closed Sunday so students can't use it.
Vi Vu
nursing assistant program



A full-time bar and residence for students to spend time from classrooms and enjoy other people's company.
Greg Litt,
construction engineering and technology program

By Becki Chmielewski

LASA students participating in computer pilot project

By Hilary Ibbotson

In the future, students coming to Conestoga College may have their English and math skills tested by a user-friendly computer program that adapts to each student's answers and gives a score within minutes.

Starting in September, the college will provide four levels of English instruction to law and security students as part of a pilot project.

The first level will be a pre-college English, the second will be a college level course and the third and fourth levels will provide more advanced English training.

The test, called the computerized adaptive placement test in English and mathematics, is already being administered to some of the 150 incoming law and security students

as part of a pilot program which will run until Jan. 31, 1994.

Admissions counsellor Bill Cleminson said the computerized test will enable the college to place students in the correct English level by providing a "common measure."

According to Cleminson, student abilities in English cannot be measured by high school marks alone.

A student with 60 per cent in English could be more skilled than a student with 80 per cent because of variations between teachers, schools and school boards, he said.

"What we've found is that records and academic documents don't always reflect a student's skill."

The computerized test is user friendly, said Cleminson, and students do not need any prior experience with computers to complete it.

Students are tested first on read-

ing comprehension and then on sentence skills. Seventeen questions are asked out of a pool of 120. The test is adaptive, said Cleminson, because it selects questions based on previous answers.

With handwritten tests, it takes time to write, mark and process the information, said Cleminson. But with computerized testing, it takes 30 minutes to one hour for the student to complete two tests, receive the results and be placed.

Cleminson said the test will be evaluated in December, once students have completed their English courses.

The College Board, a U.S.-based organization which develops education materials, created the test, which is used at both Humber and Seneca colleges as well as in many U.S. colleges.

College teachers accept need to keep retraining, says dean

By Sean Meyer

For over 10 years college instructors have accepted the need for retraining, says Conestoga College's dean of applied arts.

Grant McGregor was responding to a study of Canada's 25,000 full-time instructors which said most colleges do not do enough to encourage the upgrading of teaching skills.

McGregor, who is also the dean of the business and engineering technology programs, said changes to both the economy and available technology have forced community colleges to accept the need for teacher retraining.

"Between now and the year 2000, over 40 (per cent) of our faculty will retire," said McGregor. "That's a good and bad thing."

Although the college will lose a number of qualified instructors

who have kept themselves current in their fields, said McGregor, there will be an infusion of new instructors to replace them.

Under the terms of the college's collective bargaining agreement, college instructors are given 10 days each year to be used for retraining, he said.

The two-year study, commissioned by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, said colleges already employ most of the people they will need by the year 2000.

The average age of faculty and administration at Conestoga College is 47 to 48, while the average age of support staff is 33 to 36.

Faculty, administration and support staff all have the same responsibility to stay up-to-date in their jobs, said McGregor.

"Colleges are not the way they were 10 years ago."

Doon campus to get better bus service

By Tim Pozza

Physical resources manager Barry Milner said he was two feet off the ground when he got the call from Kitchener Transit on June 24.

That call confirmed bus service from 6 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 10:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at three new stops on the Doon campus beginning in September.

"The remainder of the time," said Milner, who has been working on the deal for two years, "buses will service bus shelters along Conestoga College Boulevard."

New stops at the Recreation Centre, door three of the main building and near the entrance to number

three parking lot represent "some very positive news for the college, students and employees," he said.

Ron Lehman, DSA president, said he is pleased the deal with transit officials has gone through.

"I think it's terrific," he said, "I don't use the bus myself but it's great news for people who do."

Kitchener Transit agreed to run the service from at least September to December.

The decision to include a drop off location near the front entrance of the Recreation Centre, said Milner, was based in part on the difficulty bus drivers were having negotiating the first corner enroute to the main building.

The new route on the road surrounding the recreation centre will remain one-way.

The new bus stops are already in use from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, and "some drivers would stop as a favor to students on the 8:15 bus to Conestoga College," said Milner.

"Bus drivers also have access to washrooms and vending machines," he said. "What better bus stop can you have but one in a heated building? You can even see the bus coming down the road."

Kitchener Transit will sell transit passes at Doon in September and January, at a table set up in co-operation with the DSA.

Clearance Sale

Reusable Coffee Mugs \$2.00
Orientation T-Shirts \$6.00
Cooler Bags \$10.00

all prices include taxes

Sale items Available at the
DSA Activities Office



Conestoga grad in Hockey Hall of Fame

By Colleen Allen

When Paul Bender first started playing hockey four years ago, he never dreamt of being part of the team that would make Hockey Hall of Fame history — the first wheelchair hockey team to be included in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

"That part I feel hasn't really sunk in yet," said Bender, who plays in the Canadian Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association league. "I think it's great. I think it's going to give us a lot more exposure."

The Conestoga graduate of the computer programmer/analyst program plays goal for the Kitchener-Waterloo Rangers and was one of 11 players selected from the Toronto division to play in the national championship against Calgary.

League officials selected players from the various teams in the Toronto league, said Bender, the only player selected from this area.

Because the team members were unfamiliar playing with one another, several practices were held prior to the five-game tournament, he said. "It came together pretty well."

"We were pretty good friends," said Bender. "That helps when you're putting a mixed team together."

The league has no age limit, nor does it separate the males from the females, said Bender.

"That's one good thing about our sport. Anyone can play, regardless of their disability."

The national team consisted of players ranging from 18 years of age to mid-40s, said Bender.

Protective eyeglasses are the only mandatory piece of equipment par-



Paul Bender is on his way to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

(Photo by Colleen Allen)

ticipants must wear, he said.

"We play with plastic sticks. Not all players would be able to use the regular sticks so the league decided on a type of stick so no one would have an advantage."

Chris Hodnett, coach of the Rangers, said Bender was "first and foremost a team player. He's not a particularly vocal gentleman normally, but when he's playing, he's probably the loudest guy on the

team."

The team's trophy and picture will be displayed in the Hall of Fame located at 30 Yonge St. in Toronto upon the completion of the section devoted to wheelchair hockey.

"I think it will give wheelchair hockey a boost in the arm in terms of the development," said Hodnett. "It will give the game some credibility."

Workshop helps reduce barriers

By Kenton Augerman

Dan Young, supervisor of athletics and community recreation programs at Conestoga College, enjoys fishing at Manitoulin Island.

So does DSA president Ron Lehman.

The two briefly discussed their common interest during a four-hour workshop at the Doon campus on June 22.

Such informality was encouraged as representatives from Doon and Waterloo campus administration, athletics, finance, human resources and physical resources met with the DSA executive in the Guild Room of the Student Client Services building.

The purpose of the workshop, according to John MacKenzie, vice-president of student development and human resources, was to "break down barriers" between student government and college administration by introducing student leaders to administrators who can assist them in performing their duties.

The workshop was successful in this regard, DSA vice-president of administration Jennifer Kurt said in an interview.

"It's going to be very helpful for me because I'm supposed to go talk to people in administration to get their opinions. Now I know at least where I can start."

Meeting administrative contacts at the session humanizes the process of having to call them, she said.

"People always say, 'Go talk to this person if you need their ser-

vices.' I could phone them on the telephone, but if I ever see them in the hallway, I don't know who they are. So it was a way to put some faces with names."

The workshop left Kurt with the impression the administration is genuinely interested in helping the DSA provide for students, she said.

"They're trying really hard to make sure that we have all the help we need to give the students what they want. They're saying, 'Call me if you need this.' So it's really nice to see they're into helping us get done what we want done."

During the session, the executive was asked to identify qualities necessary to be effective student leaders.

The abilities to communicate, negotiate, organize, adapt, make decisions, set and achieve goals, delegate responsibility and influence others were some of the qualities it suggested.

The executive then had to list the professional development activities most likely to foster these qualities.

Hosting or attending conferences, going on a retreat and having fellowship-type meetings were some of its responses.

Jack Fletcher, chair of student services and a college advisor to the DSA, said a "small task group" will be set up to create a leadership development agenda for the year, he said.

Fletcher, Young and representatives from the DSA, Waterloo Student Association and student athletic committee, will participate, he said.

Trail blazer

Technology student pits his experience against other competitors in skills olympics in Taiwan

By Tim Pozza

His red blazer fits perfectly. On his looks, complete with proper manners, thoughtful phrases and understated achievement, he might be mistaken for a candidate of the Canadian space program.

But it is what he has achieved so far that will propel Neal Gollob to fight for international recognition at the International Youth Skill Olympics in Taiwan, July 28.

Adorning his lapel are the pins collected in his two years as a college competitor in mechanical engineering design. They display the 21-year-old student's travels in Canada and the U.S.

Around his neck are two gold medals from wins in Skills Canada national championships. He is waiting for the silver medal won in Louisville, Ky., where he was one of about 100 competitors in the U.S. Skills Olympics in June.

For Gollob, a self-professed veteran of skills competition, experience could be the edge needed against nine other national champions in Tai Pai.

"I don't want to get too worried about it," he said. "Last year, when I went down to the United States competition, I was really worried about it. I really wanted to win, and I didn't. This year I was more relaxed about it, it wasn't really important to me and I won. So I'm going to try to stay relaxed."

Fortunately, Gollob said, the world competition differs from the U.S. Skills Olympics in a way which favors his strength — three-dimensional design. In Taiwan, computer design and board design are separate categories.

According to Mitch Wowzanek, a technology instructor at Conestoga and Gollob's chosen technical advisor, nine other Canadian students qualified to compete in Tai Pai by virtue of first-place wins in last year's Canadian nationals.

Gollob and Wowzanek will both go to Tai Pai, but Wowzanek, said Gollob, leaves four days early to help write the exam competitors are expected to perform.

Gollob won't be allowed to talk to Wowzanek until the exam is completed.

Gollob said he is looking forward to seeing some of the friends he has made at competitions on this continent.

For now, though, there are still some loose ends to take care of.

CADkey, one of Gollob's sponsors, provided him with an updated version of their software and donated money to the effort.

In an early morning meeting on June 30, Wowzanek and chair of technology Mike McClements appealed to college president John Tibbits for college help in raising the \$10,000 Gollob needs for the trip.

"We've come up with about 70



Neal Gollob prepares to compete in the International Youth Skills competition in Taiwan.

(Photo by Tim Pozza)

per cent of the funding on our own, through outside agencies. The biggest contribution came from CADkey. They gave us \$2,000 U.S.," said Wowzanek.

Tibbits pledged support and outlined several funding avenues the

college has yet to explore.

Gollob strokes a crease out of his official Skills Canada jacket, one that Wowzanek must still get.

"It's a really big honor to be able to represent Canada in international competition," said Gollob.

"I don't know whether I can even begin to explain what it feels like. It's a fantastic feeling . . . to know that out of all of Canada, you are the one that has been chosen for this honor. I'm really proud of myself. "I'll give it my best shot."

Student has luck of the Irish

By Kenton Augerman

Irish eyes are smiling on Jennifer Daly.

Daly, a journalism student at Conestoga College from January to April 1993, won a prestigious Irish pageant held at the Marriott Hotel in Toronto on June 5.

The 19-year-old defeated 20 competitors — some from as far away as Regina and Vancouver — to capture the title of Toronto Rose.

Daly's victory netted her about \$3,000 in cash and prizes, as well as a trip to Tralee, Ireland, where she will serve as Canada's entry in the Rose of Tralee pageant.

"I was just too happy to think," Daly said about her reaction after it was announced she had won.

"I didn't know what to do, so I just stood up and started walking. Then I heard someone calling my name. It was my escort. He's just tearing down from the back (of the ballroom) because he had to escort me up to the stage."

Prior to the announcement, Daly and the other contestants had to wait about 25 minutes for judges to decide upon a winner. The tension in the room of about 200 people was immense, she said.

"I was ready to leave because I really thought I lost. (But) I guess I must have done something really well to impress the judges because they don't usually pick someone as young as me."

The panel of judges — consisting of three men, two women and a male representative from Tralee — evaluated contestants on the basis of poise, personality, appearance in a full-length ballgown and the ability to remain calm in front of an audience, said Daly.

She was forced to demonstrate these qualities when the master of ceremonies misplaced the cue card containing the questions he was to ask her.

"He scared me pretty badly," said Daly, adding her recovery may have contributed to her win.

The semester she spent at Conestoga College also may have helped convince judges she is ma-



Jennifer Daly is the Toronto Rose.

(Photo by Kenton Augerman)

ture enough to hold the title, she said.

Daly's main duties as Toronto Rose will be to greet visiting Irish dignitaries and to appear in Toronto's St. Patrick's Day parade, she said.

She was encouraged to enter the pageant by her parents, Irish emigrants who have lived in Canada for about 30 years, she said.

Several relatives still live in Ireland, she added.

Daly leaves for Tralee on Aug. 18. One week later, the Rose will be selected from a field of more than 30 contestants.

The last time an Irish-Canadian won the pageant was in 1982, said Daly.

"It's an unbelievable honor. I'm proud," she said about the opportunity to represent her country.

Currently living and working in Hamilton, Daly is unsure of whether she will return to Conestoga College when the excitement surrounding the pageant subsides.

Elegance won't be saving historic Stratford campus

By Hilary Ibbotson

The turn-of-the-century appeal of Stratford's Water Street campus will not be enough to save it from the budget-cutting knife as Conestoga College searches for alternative locations in the Stratford area.

The college has been looking at the problem for a few weeks and the closing of the campus is a possibility as other locations are being examined, said Kevin Mullan, college vice-president of finance.

"Right now we are looking at possibly locating in part of Stratford General Hospital. They have an empty building. The other alternatives would include talking to the school boards as far as any vacant space they may have or other commercial space that may be available."

Mullan said there are a number of reasons for moving out of the Water Street campus.

"We've got a 30,000-square-foot building and we don't need anywhere near 30,000 square feet," he said. "We need somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,000 to 4,000 square feet."

Another reason is that the Water Street facility needs significant structural repairs, including new plumbing, electrical work and brick work, he said.

"We're talking in the order of several hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Mullan said that with today's tight finances, the college does not have the money for such repairs.

The building is also not accessible to students in wheelchairs, he said.

"You have to go up 13 steps just to get to the front door."

"One of the main things driving this is not only the cost of repairs at the Water Street campus, but the fact that the college is looking for \$5.5 million in budget reductions," said Mullan. "So it's not a case of looking at where we should spend money, it's a case where the college is quite actively looking at various ways in which we can become more effective and efficient with the dollars we have."

The college rents the Water Street facility from the provincial government at a cost of about \$30,000 per year and pays between \$140,000 to \$150,000 in operating costs.

Mullan said about 10 to 12 faculty and staff would be affected by a move.

Campus supervisor Wally Ebner said staff were told a few weeks ago about the possibility of a move.

"I understand the college's point of view," she said. "It's very hard to maintain the building."

Within a month, the campus's fate will be decided, based on input from the programs at the campus, the requirements of the programs and the costs, said Mullan. The college would like to move the facilities by September.

The Futures program, the Ontario basic skills program, and a literacy centre are located at the campus.

Even though the Stratford carpentry program was closed, Mullan said there is no plan to move all programs out of Stratford. "There will probably always be a need for programs in the Stratford area," he said.

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Controversial topics

New health sciences course will be available at Doon in September

By Kathleen Sibley

Abortion, ethics and living wills are just a few of the topics on the outline of a new health sciences course promised for September.

Introduction to the health care delivery system, a 16-week pre-health science course, will give general arts and science students at the Doon campus the chance to learn about many facets of working as a health care professional now and in the future, says Bill Jeffrey, dean of health sciences.

Conestoga College is catching up with other Ontario colleges, many

of which have offered pre-health sciences for years, he said.

The course, one of several in pre-health sciences, will be taught by instructors from health sciences but offered by the school of college access and preparatory studies.

Mature students and high school students who are contemplating a career in the field are candidates for the course, said Jeffrey.

"Candidates are really those wanting to know more about the health sciences program."

Twenty-five seats are available, and those who complete the course with a B+ or higher grade are guar-

Students will get an idea of what health care may be like in 2010.

—Jeffrey

anteed entry into the health sciences program, he added.

The course will also be offered in Stratford if there is enough interest, Jeffrey said.

"There are so many choices to be made these days," he said. "It allows for a good exploration of 'Is this really what I want to spend my life doing?'"

Guest speakers, such as executive directors from district health councils, administrators and other well-known health care workers, will be invited to talk to the students about their changing roles in the delivery of health care, said Jeffrey, who will teach some parts of the course.

"It's important that they (the students) come away with an understanding of what it's like to work as a health care professional in a changing system."

The course will include an overview of the Ontario and Canadian health care delivery systems, said Jeffrey, "focusing more specific-

ally on issues and critical needs of the current health care delivery system."

It will examine resources, such as hospitals and clinics, and issues and concerns, such as user fees and the future of universality, and "costs going up, up, up with no solutions," he said.

Students will also get an idea of how health care might be delivered in the year 2010, and what the future roles of health care professionals might be, added Jeffrey.

He said he hopes the course will be available as a general education course next year.

Residence may improve plaza's business

By Kari-Ann Puckering

The new student residence adjacent to the Doon campus may just be a mound of dirt, but a local business is hoping it will soon be much more.

Renee Blake, proprietor of Baker's Dozen Donuts, located at the corner of Homer Watson Boulevard and New Dundee Road, said she is eagerly anticipating the construction of the residence, as it will definitely help business.

Two acres of land behind the West Kitchener Centre, the plaza located at the corner just north of Highway 401 and across from the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre, will become a budget hotel that will rent to Conestoga College students from September to April and the remainder of the year to tourists.

The 117-room hotel is to be ready for occupancy by September 1993. Each room will be equipped with a kitchenette with a microwave and refrigerator and will be rented to two students.

Baker's Dozen Donuts was the first shop to open in the plaza across from the campus in June of last year. Since then, according to

Blake, business has been good.

"Not a lot of college students come into the shop," Blake said, but she believes it is because the cafeteria at the college offers more of a variety of food. She said she would like to offer specials for the students.

She said she and her two partners are thinking about offering take-out lunches that could be picked up by students on their way to classes in the morning.

Blake said that the sandwiches at the doughnut shop sell well and are made fresh daily. She said the menu could be expanded to offer students more of a variety, and if there is a demand, she would like to offer something like pastas or potato skins.

"We do get some students from the college in the afternoon, and staff in the morning, but traffic from college night school is when we have students," said Blake.

The plaza's leasing company, Swisscan Properties, and its construction arm, Normbau 2,000, make up Swisscan Developments Inc. in Brampton.

Swisscan leasing manager Martha Ross said a small food franchise that serves fresh fruits and healthy

foods, as opposed to a fast-food outlet, is wanted in the centre to cater to the needs of college students. She said any students interested in leasing for a small restaurant should keep the centre in mind because it is a good location.

An article in the July 20, 1992, issue of Spoke entitled Big Plans, Few Tenants for Mall Near Doon, stated an information package about the centre calls its location, "Kitchener's only commercial window onto Highway 401."

It also stated that the stretch of Homer Watson Boulevard in front of the centre had an average daily traffic flow of 20,128 vehicles, making its location perfect for business.

The main customers for the plaza will be commuter traffic coming on and off Highway 401 and residents living in the area.

"We have had quite a few inquiries about leasing space for a small restaurant and a pub geared towards the students, but nothing is definite," Ross said.

Ross said that there are still plans for a second strip mall that will be pre-leased before construction will begin and will be built within the next few years.

Orientation Week holds surprises

Duncan R. Inglis

Mugs, memo-boards and money headlined Doon Student Association's Orientation Week meeting on June 22.

Student beer mugs cost about \$1.80 each, while wipe-off memo-boards are \$1.10 a piece, said activities co-ordinator Becky Boertien.

Boertien added the DSA would like to give everyone a mug but "we only have a \$2,000 (orientation) budget and 2,500 mugs" would exceed that budget's limitations.

DSA treasurer Paula Sossi said, "I know, last year, when (the DSA) gave out things to certain people, I felt neglected."

DSA entertainment manager Brad Logel said he would like to have the dates of the first two pub-nights and the location printed on the mugs.

The Twist will host the first pub-night on Sept. 8 and the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre will hold the next on Sept. 9.

Logel said the first 100 people to attend the Orientation Week pubs will receive a souvenir mug. "I'm selfish and I want my

event to do well," said Logel, who added that money given the DSA from the college's Alcohol Awareness budget could go towards getting enough mugs.

Part of the \$9,500 budget can be used as long as the mug says something like "drink responsibly," said Logel.

The mugs are a good promotional idea, according to DSA vice-president Jennifer Kurt.

Boertien told the DSA executive that July 9 was to be the deadline for Orientation Week activities and events to be accounted for, so Spoke can be incorporated as an advertising tool.

In other business, orientation kits and residence packages were also discussed.

"Last year, with laundry bags, we had a hard time getting freebies (such as pens, notepad, pencils)," said Boertien, "and also selling the bags afterwards."

Logel and Pearson said ice buckets are a good idea for distributing the orientation kits.

The kits will contain DSA brochures, a 1993-94 activities passport, and a coupon redeemable for a wipe-off memo-board for first-year students.

Accommodation Exchange could help students stay in school

By Rita Diab

After six months of sharing an apartment, Julie Cooper, a journalism student at Conestoga College's Doon campus, has to move back to her parents' house. She said she cannot afford to continue paying rent while attending college.

With the elimination of student grants by the provincial government, it is more difficult to attend college or university, especially for those who have moved away from home.

Accommodation Exchange for Ontario Students, developed by Janet Wryghte and Marjorie Brooks, assists students in searching for free accommodation while attending university or college.

After filling out an application, Accommodation Exchange will provide names, addresses and phone numbers of residents in Ontario, said Brooks.

From that information, a student will make contact with the residents to possibly exchange homes while both attend college or univer-

sity in the other's home town.

"After the exchange has been made, it's up to both households to solve any problems that arise," said Brooks.

She said rules and expectations, such as if the environment is smoking or non smoking, if food will be provided and if friends of same or opposite sex can stay overnight, should be made clear before accepting the exchange.

One of the students leaving school in the middle of the year could be a concern people might have.

"That problem should also be addressed before accepting an exchange," said Brooks.

An annual registration fee of \$30 will be refunded only if no names are available in a student's chosen area.

Contact Brooks or Wryghte at (519) 824-1628 for more information, or write to: Accommodation Exchange for Ontario Students P.O. Box 25063 Stone Road Mall P.O. Guelph N1G 4T4



Men at work . . .

Brantco employees work hard as they rake asphalt laid down in the shipping/receiving area of Doon campus, June 29. The work was done as part of a contract worth about \$240,000 with the college to build two new parking lots and perform repair and maintenance of existing lots.

(Photo by Tim Pozza)

Recreation centre packs adventure in three camps

By Colleen Allen

The laughter, the yelling, the patter of footsteps running down the halls of Doon campus and the look of anticipation as the lunch box is opened to inspect the goodies mom has packed for lunch.

They are not September frosh, they are students enrolled in Conestoga's summer day camps.

The two-week session camps, which began on June 28 and run until Sept. 3, have scheduled activities between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The three main camps are the adventure, fun and sports camps, all of which are supervised by Lara Smith, camp director.

At the fun camp, for children aged five to nine, activities include arts and crafts, excursions outside of the campus and recreational sports activities and supervised games.

The sports camp combines sports instruction and recreational activities involving volleyball, squash, basketball, badminton, tennis, softball, swimming, soccer and fitness instruction.

The adventure camp is something new, said Smith, a graduate of University of Western Ontario's kinesiology program. "We incorporated

adventure camp for those kids who were sports camp age, but were not real athletes. This way they can still come and play sports recreationally, but do different things as well."

Participants of the adventure camp will take part in sporting activities, arts and crafts and embark on excursions to off-campus locations.

Senior leaders in training is another camp offered by the college, which involves a five-day training session for 14- to 17-year-olds, at which participants develop skills required to work for a two-week period in either the fun, adventure or sports camps.

Junior leaders in training camp is geared toward developing leadership skills of children aged 10 to 14. This includes a one-day placement in one of the primary camps.

A computer option camp offers instruction on how a computer operates using Word Perfect 5.1 and Lotus 1-2-3. Children work with hardware, operating supplies and software.

The cost of a two-week camp session ranges from \$160 to \$180. The computer option camp requires an additional \$80.

Anger sparks prison protest

By Rita Diab

The children thought it was great. They were allowed to shout and run around without being scolded. Some loved to pose for the people with cameras.

But the adults were not there for fun.

A protest against the prison to be built in the Pioneer Park area was held outside (and inside) the Doon — Pioneer Park Community Centre June 24.

Corrections Services Canada held a public meeting that night and welcomed residents to see the architect's models of the new Federally Sentenced Women Facility.

It was quiet inside the community centre for a while as curious people spoke with the designer of the facility Marianne McKenna, who is an architect from Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg.

Outside, shouts of "No prison in Pioneer Park" and "Relocate the prison" were heard. Protestors, carrying placards and wearing 'no prison' stickers, shouted at people going inside. (Even their dogs were wearing the stickers.)

Most people ignored them, but others acknowledged them. One woman replied, "Sorry, I need a job."

Rick Wakenhut, a spokesperson for People Protecting Children and Homes, is angry with the government for building the prison and ignoring people's opposition. He said he has concerns with community safety if the prison is built in the area.

"Corrections Canada always



These children were among the many at the prison protest rally.

(Photo by Rita Diab)

change their plans," said Wakenhut, a correctional officer at Guelph Correction Centre. "Originally, there was supposed to be 50 women — now it's 70. It was supposed to be minimum security, then medium, now it's maximum."

He said he was also concerned with the closing of Kingston Penitentiary, and believes women from there will end up at this prison.

Randee Cupolo of Correctional Service of Canada said the number of women to be housed at the prison has always been 70. "One more cottage may be built, which will house eight more women," she said. She added that the prison will be a multi-level institution, with minimum to maximum security.

Cupolo said the maximum security unit, which will be attached to the administration building, will have its own fencing, 24-hour alarms and extra security.

Some of the crimes these women committed range from break and enter to murder, Cupolo said. Depending on crime and behavior, about five to 10 per cent of the women will be eligible to take classes either at the prison or at a school such as Conestoga College, she said.

People Protecting Children and Homes are afraid of allowing these women into community, said Wakenhut. He and others will continue to fight to stop the prison from being built in the Pioneer Park area.

DSA promotions co-ordinator clarifies recent resignation

By Kenton Augerman

When Jason Pomeroy applied for the position of DSA activities and promotions co-ordinator, he believed he could make a significant contribution to student government.

"I know a lot of people at Conestoga College and I thought I had some really good ideas," Pomeroy said in a telephone interview. "I felt very strongly about what I had to do. I didn't feel like it was a hard job at all."

Little did the 20-year-old materials management student realize he would have to leave office after less than two months because his summer job kept him too busy to perform his DSA duties.

Pomeroy's resignation was announced at a DSA executive meeting June 15, and Pomeroy said he mailed a written resignation to the DSA on June 24.

Working 45 to 50 hours a week at a car wash and as an assistant automobile mechanic left Pomeroy no time to attend weekly DSA meetings, he said.

"I can't say to my employer, 'I have to leave this day at this hour and this day at this hour.' The type of job I'm doing, I can't just leave."

Pomeroy said he must work to make money for school, and his summer income means more than the \$800 honorarium he would have received as activities and promotions co-ordinator, he said.

"Summer months are supposed to be to make money for school. It's like, do I want to take the \$800 that they're paying for the year, or lose out on \$100 for a day? What am I supposed to do?"

Though Pomeroy is "pretty sure" he will return to college in September, he was uncertain for a while, he said.

"I didn't feel that I could be on the DSA and say, 'Well, I'm not too sure (if I will return).' I just figured it would be a little more responsible if I said, 'I should step down and you guys should take on somebody that's guaranteed.'"

During his short tenure with the DSA, Pomeroy found the executive "okay to work with," although there were occasions when it was difficult to make his viewpoint understood, he said.

"I did notice at a couple meetings that anything I said didn't seem to matter. I was sort of like the quiet guy sitting in the corner, and when I would say something it wasn't really noticed. So I usually kept my mouth shut."

Having his ideas overlooked was "kind of" frustrating, he said.

Pomeroy's replacement should bring new ideas to student government and not be afraid to voice opinions, he said.

Originality, concern for fellow students and the ability to keep ego in check are other qualities his replacement should possess, he added.

According to DSA president Ron Lehman, the activities and promotions co-ordinator should be artistic, outgoing, hard-working and able to put in a minimum of 10 hours a week.

The main duties required of the job-holder are making posters and acting as master of ceremonies for events such as orientation week, pubs, barbecues and pond parties, as well as assisting in planning events, Lehman said.

Doon scores near perfect on physical accessibility

By Hilary Ibbotson

In his nine years at Conestoga College, counsellor Rick Casey has seen many changes, but none pleases him as much as those made to accommodate students with special needs.

When Conestoga College was built in 1967, little thought was given to accessibility for the disabled. But since the early 1980s, Casey has watched Conestoga evolve into a campus where there is equal opportunity for everyone.

Casey has been involved with special needs since he came to Conestoga. He was special needs co-ordinator, a position now held by Marian Mainland, from 1989 to 1992.

The first physical change made to promote accessibility at the Doon campus came in 1980, when a two-storey wheelchair ramp was built outside the Kenneth E. Hunter recreation centre at a cost of \$250,000.

Another accommodation was made in 1988, when yellow tape was first used on stairways in the school to aid students with limited vision.

Casey said tape was first used to mark the stairways but became a hazard when it began to peel and curl.

"We decided to go with the dots because they provided a line to show there is a step coming up and because they didn't peel as badly as tape."

Lighting in the college also created problems for vision-impaired students, said Casey. "We had all these open ceilings with indirect lighting. Coming in from daylight, it was like entering a dark tunnel."

In 1991/92, according to Dave Putt, director of physical resources, a special needs grant of \$254,000 was used to install automatic doors, wheelchair ramps and grab bars in washrooms.

But one of the most important accommodations was the installation of an elevator near door 5. The elevator was installed in 1992 at a cost of \$250,000.

"Before that time, special needs students were forced to use the freight elevator and that was a demeaning experience for them," said Casey.

The college is now 9 9/10ths accessible, he said. "I'd like to believe there are no more physical changes to be made."

But Casey would still like to see door signs placed at waist length to accommodate students in wheelchairs and visual fire alarms installed for hearing-impaired students. The amount of money allocated to special needs, however, will determine whether these and other future projects can be completed.

There have been many changes made to the college to promote accessibility, said Casey. "We are a long ways away from where we were nine years ago."

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Modern rock, Canada Day: glorious combination

By Kenton Augerman

Toronto radio station CFNY held its annual Canada Day concert at Ontario Place this year, and the spirit of the event was best captured by Dave Bidini, rhythm guitarist for Etobicoke quartet the Rheostatics.

Clad in a suit jacket with a glittering red maple leaf emblazoned on the back and sporting an oversized hat shaped like a maple leaf, Bidini ran laps around the rotating stage carrying a Canadian flag.

All the while, his bandmates played their version of the national anthem.

Though typical of the quirkiness of Bidini, the sight was inspiring in a bizarrely patriotic way, and provided the perfect ending to the 10 1/2-hour marathon that attracted 22 bands and about 7,000 people to the Forum and a secondary stage on the waterfront.

The Rheostatics were flawless in their role as Forum headliners, entwining their best-known songs *Record Body Count*, *Aliens* (Christmas 1988), *The Ballad of Wendel Clark Parts I And II* and *Soul Glue* with strong album tracks such as *Legal Age Life at Variety Store*, *Horses* and *Self Serve Gas Station*.

Their two-hour set included appearances by guest musicians Lewis Melville on pedal steel guitar and Tannis Slimmon on vocals.

As stellar as the Rheostatics were, however, they were no match for the true stars of the day, The Lowest of the Low.



The Lowest of the Low set a torrid pace at CFNY's Canada Day concert at Ontario Place in Toronto.

(Photo by Colleen Connachan, courtesy of The Moose Call)

The Toronto quartet established a torrid pace immediately by launching into *Henry Needs a New Pair of Shoes*, one of two songs on the band's debut CD, *Shakespeare My Butt*. . . to receive extensive airplay on CFNY.

Bleed a Little While Tonight, For the Hand of Magdalena and Salesmen, *Cheats and Liars* were equally as enthralling, and a well-executed cover of Billy Bragg's *A New England* was a pleasant surprise.

The energy generated during the band's one-hour set culminated in lead vocalist Ron Hawkins smashing his guitar to pieces at the conclusion of *Eternal Fatalist*, much to the delight of the audience, which had been on its feet since the quartet's first note.

The teenaged-girl segment of the crowd reserved its most feverish screams and applause for The Waltons and Ginger, who also turned in strong performances.

Concert Review

Originally from Regina and now based in Toronto and Hamilton, The Waltons have a sound comparable to that of Crowded House, a pop-outfit from Australia and New Zealand.

The high points of The Waltons's 40-minute set were *Colder Than You* and *In the Meantime*, the two video releases from their CD *Lik My Trakter*, as well as a cover of Weddings, Parties, Anything's

Under the Clocks.

Ginger, formerly The Grapes of Wrath from Kelowna, B.C., is suffering no adverse effects from the departure of lead singer Kevin Kane.

Bassist Tom Hooper has made the transition to frontman appear easy, while keyboardist Vince Jones compliments Hooper's vocals very well.

The band, now a quintet after the addition of two guitarists, delivered five promising new songs, as well as the Grapes's staples *What Was Going Through My Head*, *I Am Here* and *A Fishing Tale*.

Two female pubescents threw flowers on the stage and held up a sign that said Tom 4 God during Ginger's 40-minute set.

The surprise of the day was the

excellent 40 minutes turned in by the Odds.

The Vancouver quartet played its most popular songs *Love Is the Subject* and *Wendy Under the Stars*, and was joined by Kevin McDonald from TV comedy troupe Kids In The Hall for its current smash, *Heterosexual Man*.

McDonald took a stab at playing rhythm guitar and singing backing vocals.

The funk/ska genre was represented by Toronto's King Apparatus and Montreal's Me Mom and Morgentaler.

The latter band became difficult to see at one point because it was mobbed by a legion of fans, some of whom had run down from the lawn.

Security halted the octet's set and refused to let it resume until the intruders left the stage.

The only black mark on the event was the inclusion of Gregory Hoskins and the Stickpeople on the bill.

The Toronto sextet should have performed at the secondary stage, or else traded places with Crash Vegas so that that band could have received a slot closer to the headliners's.

Many audience members used Hoskins' set as an opportunity to go for supper.

One person was observed to be sleeping.

In any case, the concert proved that Canada has an impressive stable of modern rock bands.

Uniting them on Canada Day was a glorious way to usher in the nation's 126th year.

Cliffhanger brutally displays typical Stallone

By Duncan R. Inglis

Cliffhanger will have little appeal for the weak at heart and of stomach.

The breathtaking scenery, stunts and the odd brutal killings are choreographed to near perfection, but the film itself lacks in taste.

Sylvester Stallone steals the show, with his high-wire acts and brushes with death. Of course, Stallone plays Gabriel Walker, the movie's hero, who is nothing less than Superman.

John Lithgow portrays the evil villain Lex Luthor (sorry, that's Quailin), the most convincing character of all five bad guys and one bad girl.

Lithgow and his merry band of thieving thugs rob a money-transporting airplane with the help of an insider and the pilot. The pilot takes a dive while shimmying from one plane to another and eventually three cases of money follow him.

A lone FBI agent on the security plane gets up after being shot and sends a spray of bullets back at the robber's plane, forcing the bad guys to crash land in Gabe's mountains.

In the beginning, God created man; then came Stallone. Gabe starts off as a free-wheeling, daredevil rescue mountain-climber, who, in an attempt to help his co-worker and girlfriend stuck on one mountaintop get to another, cannot hang on to the girlfriend. This shocks the audience.

Surely the immortal Stallone

characters, of previous films, would simply have reached down for that extra drop of adrenaline to lift the girl to safety.

No, not this time, and it's about time a Stallone movie showed some realism.

The realism portrayed in the first scene is the most believable part of the entire film. The rest is a ram-page of murder and apparent battles of wits and strength.

The good guy, most likely an inexperienced fighter, if portrayed realistically, musters the strength to defeat bad guys who know all about kicking in the head, chest and stomach. Those are Gabe's strong points.

Stallone brings his now well-recognized, from Rocky and Rambo, round-

the-eye scars. He also wears a typically tight T-shirt so everyone can see his bulging muscles.

No matter how much of a beating Gabe takes, he somehow still seems able to fight back.

Despite acquiring the trademark Stallone scars, Gabe presses one bad guy into a fittingly situated stalactite. A rather predictable, yet still disgusting way to go.

Ignoring the brutal scenes of death and destruction, *Cliffhanger* has qualities found only in action films.

The high-wire acts, climbing and jumping, and knowing that Stallone does his own stunts, deserve some appreciation of this exciting but sometimes disgusting Renny Harlin film.

Movie Review

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